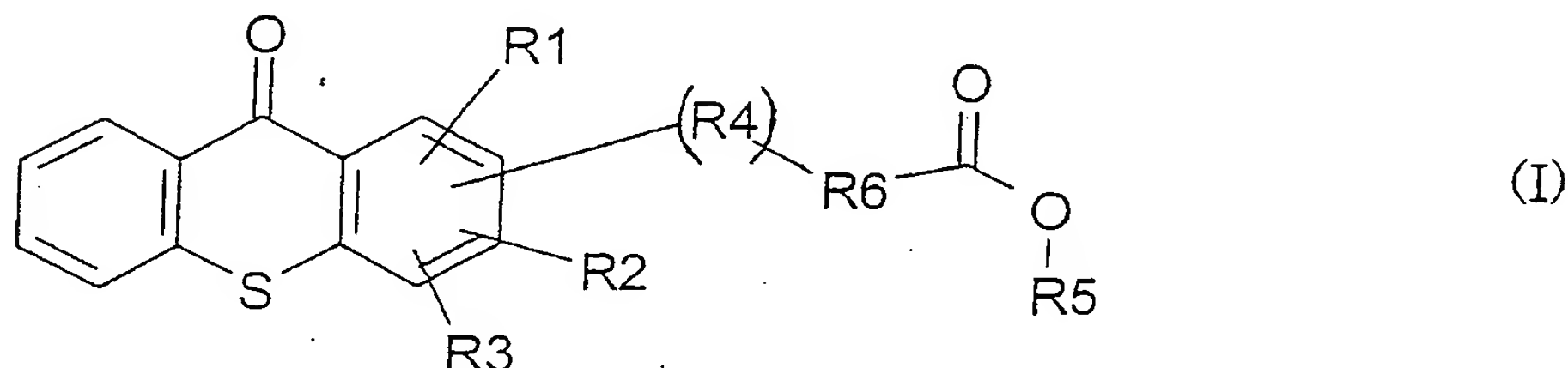


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This claim listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A process for the production of thioxanthone derivatives of the general formula (I) given below:



where:

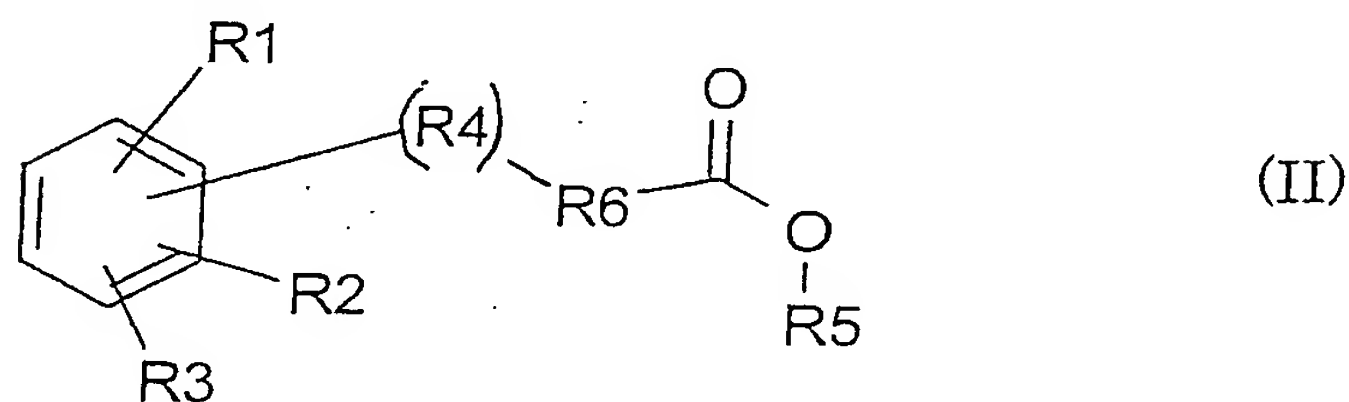
R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> dialkylamino; R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> being the same or different;

R<sub>4</sub> is oxygen, sulphur or absent;

R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl or aryl; and

R<sub>6</sub> is a straight or branched alkyl chain having 0 to 10 carbon atoms;

the one-step process comprising reacting a compound of the general formula (II) below with mercaptobenzoic acid or dithiobisbenzoic acid in the presence of sulphuric acid:



2. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sub>6</sub> is  $-(CH_2)_n-$  in in, n being 0 to 10.
3. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (II) is phenoxyacetic acid where R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are each hydrogen, R<sub>4</sub> is oxygen and n is 1.
4. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sub>6</sub> is  $-CH(CH_3)-$ .

5. (Original)            A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the sulphuric acid is used in amounts 1 part to 20 parts by weight of acid to 1 part by weight of dithiobisbenzoic acid or mercaptobenzoic acid.
6. (Original)            A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sulphuric acid has a concentration of equal to or greater than 90%.
7. (Original)            A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the molar ratios of dithiobisbenzoic acid or mercaptobenzoic acid to a compound of formula (II) are 1:1 to 1:5.
8. (Original)            A process as claimed in claim 1 further comprising stirring the reactants to aid completion of the reaction.
9. (Original)            A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature of the reaction is kept at 0 °C to 30 °C during addition of the reactants.
10. (Original)           A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the temperature is increased to 30 °C to 90 °C following addition of the reactants.
11. (Original)           A process as claimed in claim 1 further comprising quenching the reactant mixture with excess water and filtering the solid product.
12. (Original)           A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein water is added to dilute the acid strength to 20 - 50%.
13. - 18. (Canceled).